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K-State Polytechnic Diversity Assignment & Project Showcase

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K-State Salina Diversity Assignment & Project Showcase

2013 Tilford Incentive Grant Report of Activities

Report prepared December 4, 2013 by Bill Genereux

During the fall semester of 2013, a panel of six Kansas State University Salina faculty members made a presentation on the topic of diversity assignments and projects at the Midwest regional conference of the American Society of Engineering Education (ASEE). With support from the K-State Tilford Group, and in cooperation with K-State Salina digital media students, each of the six faculty members described a project or assignment having a connection with human diversity in a course they teach in the introductory plenary session. Large format posters describing each assignment were created and displayed at the event. K-State digital media students designed these posters in close collaboration with each faculty member. Examples of these posters are shown below in Figure 1:



Figure 1

The panel presenters consisted of the following K-State Salina faculty members: Becky DeGreef (Communications), Fred Guzek (Marketing & Business), Jung Oh (Chemistry), Greg Stephens (Business), Jennifer Davis (Social Work) and Bill Genereux (Computer Technology). The assignments presented included an activity in speech class that addresses racial and economic privilege, an international marketing exercise that follows a French pop singer through different European countries, a student-made periodic table of the elements, the use of storytelling in business, cultural influences on team productivity using Hofstede's dimensions of cultural diversity, and a Kansas black history month research/poster project. Several of the presenters provided printed handouts that attendees could take home with them.

Conference attendees consisted of students and faculty members from seventeen colleges and universities from six different states, representing seven different states and one international presenter from China. Of these, twenty-two K-State Salina faculty members were present, along with four faculty from K-State Manhattan, for a total of twenty-six Kansas State University faculty either presenting or attending the presentation on diversity assignments as audience members. A survey of audience responses to the diversity assignments presentation was taken. Results of that survey are attached at the end of this document.

The original proposal for this presentation planned on hosting a stand-alone event for the faculty of K-State at Salina. However, this plan was altered because preparations were already being made for hosting a regional educational conference with ASEE on the Salina campus. Therefore, it was deemed appropriate to merge the diversity assignments presentation with the existing ASEE conference in order to reach a wider audience. One drawback of this approach is that some Salina faculty members did not attend the ASEE conference presentation, so a second presentation will be made at the K-State Salina Professional Day conference in January 2014.

The original proposal included a request for presentations, and prizes to be awarded for the best presentations. However, this concept did not make it into the final format for a variety of reasons. The number of responses to the initial request

for presentations was small and the idea of giving prizes did not seem appropriate in the new venue.

There were three specific desired outcomes for this project.

1) Increasing awareness of existing diversity assignments and projects on the Salina campus

2) Increasing the number diversity assignments and projects used in classes taught on the Salina campus

3) Increasing the number of courses tagged with the Diversity in the US K-State-8 tag

At this early stage, only outcome #1 is reasonable to consider. Because of the number of K-State faculty in attendance at the ASEE conference, and because the diversity assignments presentation was made to the entire group of conference attendees, we know that we have achieved some awareness of the good work being done in the area of diversity.

Outcomes #2 & #3 will be measured over time. In the Fall 2013 semester, a total of eight courses were offered at K-State Salina with K-State 8 "Human Diversity Within the US" tags. Six of these courses are housed within the Arts, Science & Business department and two are within the Aviation department. Engineering Technology did not offer any courses tagged for diversity, which is interesting because this is the department that hosted the ASEE conference featuring the diversity assignments presentation.

Now that more faculty are aware of the ways diversity is included in various assignments, we hope to see an increase in the number of courses tagged for K-State 8 diversity in the future. A comparison of the fall 2014 to the previous fall's course tagging will be examined. It may be too soon to notice a change even within the first year, and it may be necessary to continue looking at course tagging in the years to come. In any case, it will be interesting to follow up on this in the future to see if these conversations and raised awareness resulted in offering more courses with this theme at K-State Salina.

Thank you to the Tilford Group for making this work possible!

Survey Questions

The following questions were rated using a Likert scale with 1 – strongly disagree; 2 – disagree; 3 – neither agree nor disagree; 4 – agree; 5 – strongly agree

Q1: I have included diversity topics in courses I taught before I attended this conference session.

Q2: This presentation has given me some new ideas to consider regarding the inclusion of diversity topics in courses that I teach.

Q3: I will likely include diversity as a theme for assignments and discussions in future courses I teach.

Q4: I think it is important for students in STEM areas to have diversity topics as part of their education.

Q5: This presentation was worth attending, and I would recommend it to others.

Survey Responses (n=16)

| <u>Subject Taught</u> | <u>Q1</u> | <u>Q2</u> | <u>Q3</u> | <u>Q4</u> | <u>Q5</u> |
|-----------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Computer Programming | 4 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 5 |
| n/a | 0 | 5 | 3 | 5 | 5 |
| Chem Eng | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| Mech. Eng | 2 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 3 |
| Mech. Eng | 1 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 4 |
| Electrical Eng | 2 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 4 |
| Electrical & Comp Eng | 5 | 4 | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| Electronics | 2 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 4 |
| Chem & Mechanical | 4 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 5 |
| Economics/Business | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| n/a | 3 | 4 | 3 | 5 | 3 |
| Computer Systems | 3 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 4 |
| Computer Science | 5 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 4 |
| Operations Management | 5 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 4 |
| Chem Eng | 4 | 5 | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| Freshman Engineering | 5 | 5 | 4 | 4 | 5 |
| Average Score | 3.4375 | 4.3125 | 3.625 | 4.125 | 4.3125 |
| Std Dev | 1.6317 | 0.7042 | 1.0247 | 0.9574 | 0.7042 |

Summary of expenses:

| | |
|-----------------------|----------|
| Amount Awarded: | 2000.00 |
| poster display easels | -736.24 |
| copies | -12.00 |
| foam posters | -665.00 |
| cartoon (figure 2) | -150.00 |
| total spent | 1563.24 |
| remaining amount | \$436.76 |

Teaching Diversity in STEM Curricula

Panel Presenters:
Bill Genereux, Becky DeGreeff, Greg Stevens
Jung Oh, Jennifer Davis, Fred Guzek

created in collaboration with year two K-State Salina Digital Media Technology Students



2013 ASEE Midwest Annual Conference

Figure 2 – Title poster features a Randy Glasbergen cartoon used with permission